

# THE "CONDER" TOKEN COLLECTOR'S JOURNAL

THE PROCEEDINGS OF THE CONDER TOKEN COLLECTOR'S CLUB  
Volume VIII Number 2 Summer, 2003 Consecutive Issue #28

THE HANCOCKS, DIE ENGRAVERS  
PART I: JOHN GREGORY HANCOCK, SENIOR

BY PETE SMITH



A BRITISH TOKEN MAKER TRIVIA QUIZ  
BY GEORGE SELGIN

MEMBER POLL – WHAT IS A  
"CONDER" TOKEN ANYWAY?

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**18<sup>TH</sup> CENTURY TOKENS**  
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## WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

<u>Name</u>	<u>Number</u>	<u>City, State,</u>
<b>Ms. Donna Bardos</b>	<b>CTCC #428</b>	<b>Country Canyon, California</b>
<b>Mr. James Suchma</b>	<b>CTCC #429</b>	<b>Houston, Texas</b>
<b>Mr. Paul Cilia</b>	<b>CTCC #430</b>	<b>Chardon, Ohio</b>

## INTRODUCTION

BY MICHAEL GROGAN

After serving as our Editor since 1999, Harold Welch has asked to be relieved of his role and I have volunteered to serve as Associate Editor until the CTCC chooses a replacement in our next election. In preparing to put this issue together I reread our earlier issues and am impressed once again with the quality and variety of the articles in them. Wayne Anderson and Harold have set a very high standard for the Journal, creating an important body of literature that will be valued for as long as anyone collects British tokens. It is a privilege to follow them in editing the Journal.

Ultimately, the success of our Journal depends on the CTCC membership and the articles that are submitted for publication. A broad cross section of our membership has written articles that are scholarly and entertaining. Some members are able to advance our knowledge with original research into the tokens, their makers, issuers, and history. All members can participate by writing and submitting an article. Here are a few subject ideas: My Favorite Token[s] and Why, Tokens Illustrating Sailors [or dogs, or anything else], Colonial Condens [with a North American connection], A Conder Quiz, Crossword, or other Puzzle, A Book Review, or just Why I Like Condens. If you need help getting started, I'll be glad to help. Join the long list of members who have written articles !

### IN THIS ISSUE

Part 1 of Pete Smith's article tells the story of master engraver Gregory Hancock, senior. George Selgin provides a challenging quiz with a desirable prize. Our series of Token Tales by R.C. Bell and Skidmore Churches by Simon Monks continue. Tom Fredette describes his ten favorite halfpennies and revives David Thompson's Token Tales. The Token Exchange and Mart has been reworked and offers several new and revised advertisements for your review. Finally, the Birmingham Poet makes his debut with some 18<sup>th</sup> century verse for your enjoyment.

### ON THE COVER

Engraver Gregory Hancock produced his Roman Head Cent as an insult to George Washington. Read all about it in Pete Smith's article, beginning in this issue. The image of this beautiful and rare Cent was provided by p4A.com, ltd. PO Box 346 Wright Brothers Station Dayton OH 45409-0346. Obverse and reverse images in full color may be viewed on their website <http://www.p4a.com/itemsummary/13702.htm>. Both obverse and reverse images are displayed on page 38 of this issue.

## *Token Tales*

# Men Of Old England's Inland Waterways

By R. C. Bell

### Newcastle Upon Tyne, England

Canals ranged in size from those used by tub-boats carrying about five tons, to the Gloucester and Berkeley designed for the passage of 300-ton ships, and linking Gloucester to the port of Bristol. The Act permitting its construction was passed in 1793, but trade depressions and wars delayed its completion for 34 years and many of its investors were ruined.

Work began in 1794 at Gloucester but all the capital was exhausted in excavating the dock and cutting 5½ miles to Hardwick. It then lay useless for 20 years until the government loaned £65,000 to provide work for a growing army of unemployed.

Excavation began again in 1818 but there were further difficulties and it was finally opened in 1828.

Bargees were recruited from among river and coastal watermen; navvies who took to the waterways they had helped to build; and villagers from hamlets along the banks of the canal. Most rivers and broad canals were worked by men; families were mainly confined to the monkey boats on the narrow canals.

At the height of the canal system about 100,000 persons; bargees, stablemen and lock-keepers, with their wives and children lived and worked by the water in constant danger of being crushed by a boat, falling into a lock



Porter humping a bale of cotton.  
(D&H Lancashire 135)

in the dark, or being drowned in a storm. To quote from the Basingstoke Company's report for 1802:

"One of the company's barges, the 'Baxter', encountered a sudden and violent storm about the Nine Elms, as she was going up the Thames loaded with grocery and merchandise, which rendered her totally unmanageable and she must have sunk in the middle of the river, but for the assistance of a large sailing vessel which kept her floating till she got near the shore, when she went to the bottom and was soon filled with water . . . "At the same time another loaded barge, the property of a Mr. Jones, also going up the river, sank after she had been hauled close to the shore; and three other vessels, of different descriptions, were seen to go down about the same time . . . "

References are to Dalton and Hamer's "The Provincial Token Coinage of the 18th Century" (D&H) and to Davis' "Nineteenth Century Token Coinage" (Davis). Illustrations are shown 1½ times normal size.

At tunnels the towpath usually left the canal and went over the hill, leaving the barges to be "legged through" by the crew who lay on their backs on special boards projecting from the deck, and pushed with their feet against the roof or sides of the tunnel. Occasionally boats were poled, or towed on an end-



The canal at Gloucester in 1797, with a Severn trow in foreground, and the city in the distance, dominates this half-penny token. (D&H Gloucestershire 63)

## Token Tales



Severn trow under sail. (D&H Gloucestershire 59)

less chain. Eventually tunnels were built larger and had a towpath which abolished the dirty and dangerous "legging".

The bargees had few friends. Villagers living near the waterways accused them of poaching and damaging property; while their employers complained of thefts from cargoes to barter for goods and food; of coal being dumped overboard to lighten the loads; and of toll-money spent on drink. Few appreciated their hard, unceasing labor.

Lock-keepers too, worked in obscurity. They lived in lonely cottages on isolated stretches of water, ready to open and shut the locks at any hour; collect tolls and enforce the commissioner's rules. Their maximum salary was £5 a year with a house and garden. Their life was essentially one of dull routine, but they had their moments of excitement.

Richard Savory, keeper of Teddington lock wrote in his diary for March 3, 1818:

"... it has been always customary with me to rise at dawn of day because in general ye barges move from Richmond then and often do before if the moon shines till day, and this was the case on ye 20th early. I rose at just past 4 and was employed in the office arranging some small matters before ye craft came when I heard a man's voice calling.

"... I opened one of the shutters and saw a man standing about half way between my window and the lower gate, and he pointed with his hand and said, 'Here's a trow coming.' I had no doubt in my own mind but that the trow



A bridge over the Shropshire Union canal near Beeston castle. (D&H Cheshire 4)

was very near, and as the wind blew hard and right into the pound it was highly necessary that the gates should be opened and ready. I now took my hat and was going out, but the instant I opened the door a stout fellow rushed in and seized me by the throat. While we were struggling in came two more and one of them had something in his hand resembling half a sack.

"I was thrown with violence over a chair and we both came rolling to ye ground, and I then felt one of them cover my head and press it so close down that I really began to fear that they meant to suffocate me... They then took my keys from my coat pocket from rolling me over, and having broke every lock and emptied every small box of Mrs. Savory in the next room they all ran out leaving me locked in and in darkness. By their bad discourse I must think them bargemen of the lowest class.

"I had about eleven or twelve single pound notes and full six pounds silver and ye most part small silver, and four or five shillings in copper. I do indeed much fear this is only ye beginning, for which ever lock receives much value it will be a temptation to such villains to make an attempt at ye end of ye week..."

Canals also carried passengers. The duke of Bridgewater equipped two boats plying between Warrington and Manchester; one carrying passengers at a shilling a head, the other was divided into three cabins with fares of two shillings sixpence per person for the best room; one shilling ten pence for the others. It was a cheap and pleasant method of traveling.

## Token Tales

Other companies followed with light express boats of 10 to 18 tons using relays of horses and with priority over all other traffic and running to strict time tables.

Troops were also moved by water. "The Times" of December 19, 1806 reported:

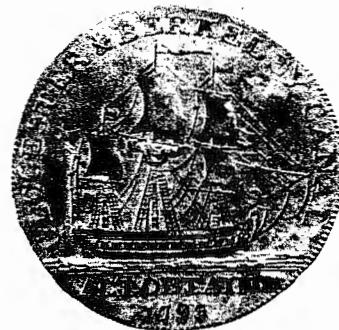
"The first division of the troops that are to proceed by the Paddington canal for Liverpool, and thence by transports to Dublin, will leave Paddington today, and will be followed by others tomorrow and Sunday. By this mode of conveyance the men will be only seven days in reaching Liverpool, and with comparatively little fatigue, as it would take them above fourteen days to march the distance. Relays of fresh horses for the canal boats have been ordered to be in readiness at all the stages."

In 1809 the Forth and Clyde company started the first "swift boat", with cabin and steerage accommodation, the cabin being provided with newspapers, book and games. Meals and drinks were also served on board. These swift boats covered the 25 miles between Glasgow and Falkirk in 3½ hours. They were towed by two horses which were changed at stables every two miles along the canal.

Passengers found the boats cleaner and more comfortable than stage coaches, and the number of canal passengers rose steadily.

There were occasional tragedies. The "Exeter Flying Post" of November 22, 1810 reported:

"Yesterday about half-past twelve the



A ship on the proposed Gloucester and Berkeley canal. (D&H Gloucester-shire 63)

boat which tracks on the Ardrossan canal was about to set off for Johnstone; it was one of the days of our quarterly fair, and a great many boys and girls being off work were attracted by its novelty (being the fifth day it had sailed); some had not got out from Johnstone, while others were crowding on board to go there; the boat was lying at the quay in the basin; the water about six feet deep, some were below, but most part on the top of the cabins or on the deck.

"The boat was raised pretty high out of the water, and the weight getting too great above, she suddenly swayed on one side, and all on deck fell over. Some were able to leap onto the quay on the first motion, but upwards of 100 persons, men, women, boys and girls, and even children were precipitated into the basin. A few swam out, and others were got out before they sank, but the greater number sunk to the bottom.

"Drags were got, and before one o'clock about 50 were rescued. Every aid was given by the surgeons and inhabitants, and on Saturday night 18 or 20 more were recovered. The dragging continued all the afternoon. About 90 have been dragged out in all: but owing to the great number of families the sufferers belonged to, it is not accurately known how many are dead... Those in the cabin of the vessel were safe, the boat uprighting as soon as the crowd fell off..."

As early as 1788 plans were made to use steam power on canals. William Symington, encouraged by Lord Dundas, the governor of the Forth and Clyde canal, and in collaboration with the Carron Iron company, experimented



The navigation office at Birmingham in 1796. (D&H Warwickshire 210)

## **Token Tales**

**(Concluded from page 7)**

with steam engines to drive boats.

The first trial took place on the canal in November 1789, and in March 1802 the 'Charlotte Dundas', built by Symington, and powered with a stern paddle-wheel driven by a double-acting condenser-engine constructed by James Watt, pulled two laden 70-ton barges for 19½ miles against a strong wind in six hours.

Other equally successful trials followed, but the proprietors decided against using the vessel, fearing that her wash might damage the banks; and she was beached in a creek off the canal and left to rot. An American spectator of the trials, however, was deeply impressed with her capabilities, and Robert Fulton returned to his own country to build the famous 'Clermont' for use on the Hudson river.

## **'Grand Old Man' of Token Collecting Dead at 84**

'Conder' token collecting has lost one of its legendary figures with the passing of R. C. Bell. An e-mail just received from Professor G. D. Bell of Ipswich states, "I regret to have to inform you that my father Mr. R. C. Bell died peacefully in hospital early in September 2002 and a very nice memorial service was conducted to celebrate this life later the same month".

Bell was, of course, the author of the wonderful series of *Token Tales* articles which have appeared in every issue of the *CTCC Journal* since its inception and will remain a fixture of this publication for years to come. But it is his monumental series of six books written throughout the 1960s, 70s and 80s which revitalized interest in the token series and will stand as the essential references for years to come.

This sad report has arrived just prior to publication of this issue. The fall journal will contain much more about Mr. Bell including an autobiographical article written in January 2001. Mr. Bell sent it to me at that time under the restriction that it only be published after his death. CTCC members who have remembrances of Mr. Bell are encouraged to send them to Mike Grogan or myself for inclusion in the upcoming issue.

Harold Welch



**R. C. Bell 1917 - 2002**

## Articles from the *Token World*

by Tom Fredette #060

Starting in early 1990 and ending in mid-1995, the Krause publication *World Coin News* published a series of columns by David Thompson under the heading "Token World." Many, if not most, of the columns dealt with the token issues of Great Britain, concentrating on the issues of the late 18th century.

The articles were not lengthy, but the subjects were varied. When they are gathered all together, they can be viewed as a body of work which is very specific to our hobby. "Token World", for the most part, appeared on a bi-weekly basis. What follows is an overview and index. These articles are now available for loan from the CTCC Library.

<u>Article date:</u>	<u>Subject:</u>	<u>Page #</u>
April 2, 1990	Newgate prison - "Tokens feature infamous prison"	32
September 17, 1990	Communion tokens - "Communion tokens call Scotland to the minds of most hobbyists"	18
December 24, 1990	the Whitby token - "Mystery Whitby token may serve as a reminder of misery of prison ships"	24
January 21, 1991	Druid tokens - "Druid depicted on copper company token"	—
March 18, 1991	Birmingham Warehouse - "Birmingham tokens won special status"	27
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June 10, 1991	Lundy Island - "Puffin's creator sought coin status for token"	18
June 24, 1991	GB counters - "Political commentary appeared on counters"	10
April 27, 1992	Gibraltar tokens - "Gibraltar merchants battled coin shortage"	33
August 2, 1993	Wilkinson tokens - "Wilkinson trade tokens were a common sight"	37

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September 13, 1993	French Revolution - "Political tokens lampoon French Revolution events"	18
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December 6, 1993	Ephemera - "Spin-offs from collecting interest can be instructive"	54
December (20), '93	Farthing tokens - "Token farthings listed with English copper"	—
January 17, 1994	Maltravers farthing - "Farthing token story threads through chaos"	13
January 31, 1994	Thomas Faryner - "Faryner token connected to Great Fire of London"	30
August 29, 1994	London zoos - "London zoos were popular 18th-century token subjects"	25
September 12, 1994	London churches - "London churches' tokens continue to be fascinating"	16
September 26, 1994	London buildings - "London and Westminster twin cities subject of series"	16
October 10, 1994	Denton-Prattent tokens - "Company offices portrayed on Denton-Prattent tokens"	18
October 24, 1994	London gates - "London gates appear on Skidmore token series"	25
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January 2, 1995	Bath - "When you need a bath, England's got the place"	24
January 16, 1995	Wilkinson tokens - "John Wilkinson appeared on masses of tokens during industrial revolution"	—
January 30, 1995	Spence tokens - "Social activist Spence jabbed with his tokens"	19
February 13, 1995	T. Wood - "Threat of French attack rang hollow with Wood"	22
February 27, 1995	Pie Corner - "Chop-block section of London survived the Great Fire on tokens"	26
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March 27, 1995	misc. subject - "Tied to trade, British tokens saw bitter days"	30
April 10, 1995	St. George tokens - "St. George trade tokens produced in Portsea"	21
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April 24, 1995	Canterbury tokens - "Reverently approach Canterbury's tokens"	19
May 8, 1995	Religious theme tokens - "Relic collecting popular during Reformation age"	19
May 22, 1995	Scotland - "Harsh economy leads Scots to issue tokens"	15
June 9, 1995	Scotland - "Scottish queen's fate goes down in history"	24
June 19, 1995	Scotland - "Leith tokens record rich import history"	14

(End of *Token World* List)

## Some Tokens of John Hancock Sr.



Middlesex 239



Staffordshire 2



Warwickshire 42

## **The Hancocks, Die Engravers**

### **Part I: John Gregory Hancock, Senior**

Pete Smith

Wayne Anderson told me the story of John Gregory Hancock, Jr. around 1991. My curiosity grew as I read occasional references to the Hancocks in the literature. It is a tale clouded in mystery with more questions than answers.

I will review the original sources of published comments on the Hancock's. These sources are listed at the end of each part. I would enjoy learning of other sources I missed.

John Gregory Hancock Senior was a prolific engraver for medals. He is one of the most important engravers and producers of Conder Tokens. As the engraver of pieces shipped to America, Hancock is important to collectors of early American copper coinage.

Around 1800 tokens appeared that were promoted as the work of John Gregory Hancock Junior, then about eight years of age. When collectors expressed doubts about the truth of these claims, Hancock Senior produced an affidavit. One of Hancock's clients, George Barker, observed Hancock Junior at work and confirmed his talents.

This story was told by Pye in 1801 and investigated by Sharp in 1834. For nearly two centuries, later authors have repeated the story but provided little new evidence. Recent articles and the "web" provide some new information.

This story is told on the tokens with little independent confirmation. As the work of a creative genius or a clever fraud, the story improves the value of the tokens.

Part I begins with John Gregory Hancock, Sr. The story of John Gregory Hancock, Jr. will appear later in part II.

### **John Gregory Hancock, Sr.**

John Gregory Hancock, Sr. is one of the great engravers and producers of the Conder Token period. (Sharp called him "pre-eminent".) As engraver for the Anglesey pieces, he was involved from the beginning. Unfortunately, little biographical information appears in the literature.

His dates of birth and death were unknown to most writers so the convention was to use "fl." (flourished) to indicate dates of his career. Eimer gives his dates as fl. 1783-1805. Forrer gives his dates as circa 1775-1815. Brown gives his dates as fl. 1775-1821. Peck gives the dates as 1775-1815 without the "fl." convention. Breen copied the 1775-1815 dates from Peck.

Breen expanded this by stating that Hancock was 16 years old when he cut dies for the 1791 dated patterns. (Making him 8 when he produced the 1783 Priestley medal) Also 1791 is the year his son was born. Breen was an excellent researcher but his conclusions may be subject to criticism. In this case, Breen's statements about Hancock's age must be ignored.

Dykes identifies Robert Hancock (1714-92) as the father of John Gregory but does not cite a source. Robert was also an engraver working for Boulton. John and his brother, William Hancock, apprenticed to Boulton and Fothergill on June 24, 1763. John remained with Boulton after his apprenticeship. William went to Sheffield but returned to Soho to work in their plating department from 1775 to 1783. John and William established businesses around 1783 with William as a plater and John as a die sinker.

According to Forrer, Hancock was an engraver of Prize medals, badges, tickets, etc. Pieces are signed "HANCOCK" or "I.G.HANCOCK." It is possible some of his work may be confused with another engraver who signed pieces I. HANCOCK.

Hancock's earliest medal [Joseph Priestley, BHM 251] is dated MDCCCLXXXIII (1783). The pieces were produced for Thomas Phipson (1738-1807) and were advertised in Aris's *Birmingham Gazette* on April 4, 1783, confirming the date of issue. Although, this piece is listed as a Conder Token (Birmingham 33) its date of issue was before the Conder period. Other early medals attributed to Hancock were also for Thomas Phipson.

In 1787 Boulton was pursuing contracts for regal coinage, as was Thomas Williams. Williams hired Birmingham's two best engravers, Hancock and John Westwood, partially "to prevent other persons from benefit by their service." Hancock cut dies for a pattern halfpenny and pattern guinea dated 1788 for Samuel Moore, the secretary of the Society of Arts. By 1789, Williams abandoned his manufacturing business and pursuit of a coinage contract.

Apparently Hancock had a dispute with Boulton over the reuse of a hub. In 1790 Hancock complained about Boulton in a letter than "so great a falling off from the generous man, Hancock always experienced in Mr. Boulton. Mr. Boulton does not do justice to his small abilities by endeavoring to get a hub from my die and depriving me of any further benefits arising from my labour."

In his introduction to *Commercial Coins*, R. C. Bell lists three makers in London and one each in Dublin, Sheffield and Soho. He lists 16 manufacturers in Birmingham, an indication that this city was the center for token production. On the final page Bell lists Hancock third in rank as a diesinker of Commercial Coins (behind Wyon and Arnold) and third in rank (behind Lutwyche and Kempson) as a manufacturer.

Hancock struck six and a half million tokens during the peak of production 1789-1792. During the 1792-95 period, he produced smaller quantities. Apparently after 1795 he discontinued making tokens and produced token dies for other makers including Thomas Dobbs, Peter Kempson and Matthew Boulton.

Hancock worked for John Westwood although the level of their collaboration is subject to some speculation. It was during this time that American pattern coins were produced. John Westwood died on March 9, 1792. Ten days later his younger brother, Obadiah Westwood, placed an ad stating, "That part of the business wherein J. G. Hancock had a concern with John Westwood, such as Coining of medals, &c. &c. will be carried on with its usual spirit."

Hancock moved frequently. He appears in Pye's Directory of 1785 as, "Modeller, Die-Sinker, and Chaser" in Bartholomew Row, Birmingham. In 1787 he is listed as an "artist" at 45 Edmund Street. Hamer gives his address as Snow Hill, Birmingham, where he resided 1791-98. Chapman's 1801 and 1803 Directory lists John Gregory Hancock as an "artist" on Summer Lane near Hospital Street (1800-01). His final residence in 1803 was on Hospital Street.

Hancock received six guineas for engraving a die for the "Charleville token" in January 1803. Doty reports this as the last work Hancock did for Boulton and his last token.

Hancock Senior secured several patents including one dated September 14, 1804, for "A method of forcing or working the bolts of presses or engines used for the purpose of cutting, pressing, and squeezing of metals, horn, tortoiseshell, leather, and other substances." Another description was that the patent was for a fly press, "that dispensed with the usual screw in favor of a face cam which presses down on the bolt of the press as it revolves, the bolt being brought up again by the action of a spring. By this mechanism the press may be driven by the continuous

rotation of a shaft in the same direction, there being obviously no necessity to reverse the rotation of the cam."

George Selgin called my attention to the article by Dykes citing a death notice published in the November 11, 1805, issue of Aris's *Birmingham Gazette*. This indicates that John Gregory Hancock died on November 2, 1805, "Aged 55, sincerely lamented by all the friends and patrons of genius, that admired artist, Mr. J G Hancock, of this town."

### Medals Attributed to John Gregory Hancock, Sr.

Brown lists medals of a "national" character. Hancock's unlisted medals for others not considered national may outnumber his listed pieces.

Joseph Priestley (1783) [BHM 251, Eimer 807] for Thomas Phipson (See Birmingham 33)  
King George III; Recovery from Illness (1789) [BHM 301] for Thomas Phipson  
Death of the Reverend John Wesley (1791) [BHM 357, Eimer 839]  
Joseph Priestly; Arrival in America (1794) [BHM 381] possibly by Hancock for Phipson  
Action Off Isle De Groix, Alexander Hood, Lord Bridgeport (1795) [BHM 406, Eimer 867]  
Sir Henry Trollope, Action Off Helvoetsluys (1796) [BHM 414, Eimer 874]  
Viscount Duncan, Admiral of the White, Battle of Camperdown (1797) [BHM 426, Eimer 884]  
Sir Richard Onslow, Admiral of the Blue, Battle of Camperdown (1797) [BHM 427, Eimer 885]  
Battle of Cape St. Vincent, John Jervis (1797) [BHM 435, Eimer 881] By Kempson  
Birthday of John Philip Kemble (1798) [BHM 446, Eimer 888]  
Battle of the Nile, Horatio Lord Nelson (1798) [BHM 448, Eimer 889] By Kempson  
Action Off Tory Island, J. Borlase Warren (1798) [BHM 455, Eimer 895]  
Worlingforth Volunteers (1798) [Eimer 900]  
Charles James Fox (1799) [BHM 467]  
Fortieth Birthday of Joseph Munden (1799) [BHM 469, Eimer 902]  
William Pitt (1799) [BHM 470, Eimer 912]  
Defense of Acre, Sir Sidney Smith (1799) [BHM 473, Eimer 905]  
Charles James Fox (1800) [BHM 488, Eimer 915]  
Richard Greene Memorial (1800) [Forrer]  
Union of Ireland with Great Britain (1800) [BHM 494, Eimer 917] By Kempson  
King George III, Recovery from Illness (1801) [BHM 503, Eimer 928]  
Admiral Lord Keith and the Death of Sir Ralph Abercromby (1801) [BHM 507, Eimer 931]  
Union of Ireland with Great Britain (1801) [BHM 526, Eimer 926] By Kempson  
Battle of Alexandria, Campaign in Egypt, 97th Regimental Medal (1801)  
The Prince of Wales, Grand Master of the Freemasons (1802) [BHM 530, Eimer 937]  
Death of Francis, Duke of Bedford (1802) [BHM 532]  
Peace of Amiens (1802) [BHM 538]  
Marquis Cornwallis (1803) [BHM 539, Eimer 942]  
Peace of Amiens (1802) [BHM 541, Eimer 940]  
Loyal Birmingham Light Horse Volunteers (1802) [Eimer 943]  
Robert Banks, Secretary of State (1803) [BHM 548, Eimer 947]  
The State of the Nation, Henry Addington (1803) [BHM 550, Eimer 946]  
Washington Memorial Medal (1803) [Forrer]

Death of William Pitt (1806) [BHM 613]  
 Viscount Rowland, Capture of Forts of Almarus (1812) [Forrer]  
 Peace of Paris (1814) [BHM 813]  
 Peace of Paris, Samuel Fereday (1814) [BHM 814]  
 Treaty with America (1814) [BHM 841]  
 Battle of Waterloo (1815) [BHM 873]  
 Saddleworth Pitt Club (1818) [Eimer 1109]  
 Accession of King George IV (1820) [BHM 1016-17]  
 Coronation of King George IV (1821) [BHM 1076-79, 1083]  
 King George IV, Visit to Hanover (1821) [BHM 1114-16]  
 King George IV, Visit to Ireland (1821) [BHM 1117-20, 1125]  
 Installation of the Knights of the Order of St. Patrick (1821) [BHM 1172]

The list covers three periods with diminishing reliability. Most of the medals produced between 1783 and 1803 feature portrait busts. I have no problem with the Hancock attribution for those.

The medals dated 1806-1818 are a problem if Hancock died in 1805. The 1806 Pitt death medal and 1818 Saddleworth medal are copied directly or indirectly from earlier Pitt medals. This illustrates how the work of medallists may continue after their death. Three medals of this era feature Peace on a globe which are stylistically unlike any previous medals by Hancock and cannot be by Hancock.

The five types of medals produced in 1820 and 1821 are apparently unsigned. Even Brown questioned the attribution to Hancock so they can be ignored.

### **Tokens Attributed to John Gregory Hancock, Sr.**

#### **Wales: Anglesey**

Parys Mine Company, JD Monogram (1787) [D&H 4-10] Struck by Parys in Birmingham.  
 Parys Mine Company, Thin Wreath (1787) [D&H 11-13] Struck by Parys.  
 Parys Mine Company, Thick Wreath (1787) [D&H 17-85] Struck by Parys.  
 Parys Mine Company, Thin Wreath (1788) [D&H 86-140, 169-243] Struck by Parys.  
 Anglesey Mines (1788) [D&H 273-279, 281-357] Struck by Parys.  
 Anglesey Mines (1791) [D&H 386-397] Struck at Soho in Birmingham.  
 Paris Miners (1791) [D&H 436-42] Struck by Hancock

#### **Cambridgeshire**

Cambridge, James Burleigh (1799) [D&H 9] By Kempson, 48 struck in copper, six in silver.  
 Cheshire

Macclesfield, Roe Company (1789) [D&H 9-15] By Hancock, one ton struck.  
 Macclesfield, Charles Roe (1790) [D&H 16-27]  
 Macclesfield, Charles Roe (1791) [D&H 28-55]  
 Macclesfield, Charles Roe (1792) [D&H 56-59]

#### **Devonshire**

Exeter, Bishop Blaize (1792) [D&H 1-3] By Hancock, five tons struck.

#### **Gloucestershire**

Brimscombe Port, Thomas & Severn Canal Co. (1795) [D&H 58-61] Hancock, 3 tons struck.

## Hampshire

Southampton, Bevois (1790) [D&H 81-84] Struck by Hancock  
West Cowes, Fox (1798) [D&H 94] By Lutwyche, 100 lb. struck.

## Lancashire

Lancaster, Worswick & Sons (1791) [D&H 9-28] By Hancock, five tons struck.  
Liverpool, Thomas Clarke (1791) [D&H 61-78] By Hancock, ten+ tons struck.  
Rochdale, John Kershaw (1791-2) [D&H 140-142] By Hancock, two tons struck

## Leicestershire

Elmsthorpe, Richard Fowke (1800) [D&H 2] By Kempson, 18 struck in copper, 3 in silver.

## Middlesex

Political & Social, Uncharitable Monopolizer (1800) [D&H 239-41; BHM 497]  
London, T. R. Davidsons (1795) [D&H 295] By Dobbs, 1000 lb. struck.  
London, John Burton (1795) [D&H 303-305] By Hancock, 300 lb. struck.  
Spence's, End of Pain (1793) [D&H 833] By Hancock.

## Norfolk

Yarmouth, William Absolon (1792) [D&H 51] By Hancock, 500 lb. struck.

## Shropshire

Shrewsbury, Salop Woolen Manufactory (1793) [D&H 19-22] By Hancock, five tons struck.

## Somersetshire

Bristol, India Tea Warehouse (1793) [D&H 88-89] By Hancock, one ton struck

## Staffordshire

Lichfield, Richard Greene (1800) [D&H 2] By Kempson, 72 struck in copper.  
Tamworth, John Harding (1799) [D&H 6-9] By Kempson, 48 struck in copper, 6 in silver

## Suffolk

Blything Hundred, Sir John Rous (1794) [D&H 17-19] By Kempson, 500 lb. struck.

## Sussex

Chichester and Portsmouth, John Howard (1794) [D&H 19-20] By Hancock, one ton struck.

## Warwickshire

Birmingham, Hancock (1800) [D&H 14] By Kempson, Reverse attributed to JGH Jr.

Birmingham, Joseph Priestly (1783) [D&H 32-33] (too early to be a Conder token!)

Birmingham, Sedition (1791) [D&H 34] Struck by Hancock

Coventry, Philemon Holland [D&H 39] By Kempson, six proofs struck in tin.

Coventry, E. W. Percy [D&H 41] By Kempson, 36 struck in copper, 6 in silver.

Coventry, E. W. Percy (1801) [D&H 42] By Kempson, 6 struck in copper.

(One of Wayne Anderson's favorite tokens, combining rarity, quality, and marbles.)

Coventry (1801) [D&H 44] By Kempson, 18 struck.

Birmingham, George Barker (1797) [D&H 67] By Kempson, 15 struck in copper, 12 in tin.

Birmingham, George Barker (1797) [D&H 68] By Kempson, 24 struck in copper.

Birmingham, George Barker (1799) [D&H 69] By Kempson, 12 struck in copper, 12 in tin.

John Wilkinson, Barge (1788) [D&H 336] By Boulton, 100 struck in silver.

John Wilkinson, Barge (1788) [D&H 337] By Kempson, 100 struck in silver.

John Wilkinson, Forge (1787) [D&H 340-358, 360-368] By Hancock, several tons struck.

John Wilkinson, Vulcan (1790) [D&H 424-30] By Hancock, three tons struck.

## Yorkshire

Hull, Garton & Shackles (1791) [D&H 17-21] By Hancock, five tons struck.

Leeds, Richard Paley (1791) [D&H 43-52] By Hancock, five tons struck.

Leeds, Bishop Blaze (1791) [D&H 53] By Hancock, possibly by JGH Jr.

Ireland: Wicklow

Cronebane, Irish Mine Company (1789) [D&H 3-31] Struck by Hancock

Scotland: Lothian

Edinburgh, T & A Hutchinson (1790) [D&H 23-30] By Hancock, ten tons struck, all dates.

Edinburgh, St. Andrew (1791) [D&H 31-37]

Edinburgh, St. Andrew (1792) [D&H 41-46]

Edinburgh, St. Andrew (1792) [D&H 66] By Hancock, six proofs struck.

Edinburgh, St. Andrew [D&H 67] By Hancock.

Edinburgh, St. Andrew (1792) [D&H 68]

Wales: Carmarthenshire

Carmarthen, John Morgan (1792) [D&H 5-7] By Hancock, five tons struck.

In several cases there are trial strikes with head punches preserved that show development of the dies before addition of lettering.

### **Digges' Correspondence**

Word of the discussion of American cents in Congress reached England and speculative patterns were produced there. A good source for information on Hancock pieces produced for America comes from the correspondence of Thomas A[ttwood] Digges. He wrote a letter to Thomas Jefferson dated March 10, 1793.

“Since my letter to you by Wm Pearce the double loom maker and the original inventor of Arkwright’s first weaving and spinning machinery, I have not had occasion to write, nor would I have likely done it before my embarkation for America. But as indeed not to do so from having accidentally seen a Birmingham production of one of the American Cents, the intended coin of America & the 1/100th part of the Dollar. Knowing it had been determined in Congress to have all their money minted in the States, I made it my business to seek out and inform myself all I could about this Cent coinage here and of the Artists and Merchts engaged about them. I first apply’d to Messrs. W. & Alexr Walker, and they shewed me the specimens ... sent herewith & afterwards gave them to me. They said it was merely a speculation or trial to obtain the orders for making the intended Cents here which induced them to the attempt in 1791 and that some hundred wt of so had been sent to America and given to the President & other public gentn. But that on the determination of Congress to mint their own money, their scheme here had fallen thro’. They were close and secret as to who the diesinker was, where coined & ... but upon further inquiry I found Messrs Walker had ordered them to be done at Mr. Obadiah Westwood’s (a considerable maker of those kinds of money), and that his die sinker Mr. Jno Gregory Hancock (one of the first in this place tho’ with Character of a dissipated man) and a prentice lad Jno Jordan very clever in that line, had executed them, & still hold the dies. This lad Jordan has two years of His time (to serve) wishes much to go to America, but I suppose his time would be worth 200f. The face likeness on both are the same die and a good likeness of the President, tho the Eagles and motto are different - The likeness was taken from a large medal struck at Philla.”

While Diggs identified Obadiah Westwood as the maker in 1793, Hancock probably did the work for John Westwood before his death in 1792.

I am intrigued by the meaning of the word 'dissipated.' (American spelling dissipated) My first thought was that he meant wasting as in poor health. This seemed unlikely for a man at the peak of his career. There is another meaning for dissipation, "indulgence in pleasure to the point of harming oneself."

Digges wrote another letter dated April 6, 1793, (incorrectly dated 1792 in Taxay) to Thomas Pinkney, American Minister to London. He described three pieces struck in Birmingham with emblems intended for America.

"Since these my communications with MB [Boulton] and MW, [Watt] and my last letters to you, I have found out a variety of money coining practices here, highly disgraceful, I think, to the Parties, to the Country and its laws; and in the instances I shall mention likely to do infinite mischief to the vast circulation of Spanish silver in the United States.

As early as 1791 they began with the American Copper Cent only upon reading the resolve of Congress to have such a money and the getting over a print of the American Eagle. There were three different sorts of those cents made here (the samples of two of which I forwarded for your perusal in Mr. Jefferson's Book) all with the President's head, not a bad likeness, & tolerably well executed - I find however this was merely an attempt of some artists here to induce Congress to give Birmingham the order for coinage of their copper money."

### **Hancock Pieces for America**

In general, English provincial tokens (Conder Tokens) have been collected by few Americans. However, a Conder Token listed in the 'Red Book' attracts the attention of many more collectors as interest (and prices) rise considerably

#### **Lancashire [D&H 59]**

Obv: UNANIMITY IS THE STRENGTH OF SOCIETY / OUR / CAUSE / IS / JUST

Rev: E PLURIBUS UNUM

Edge 59: PAYABLE IN LANCASTER LONDON OR BRISTOL

Edge 59a: AN ASYLUM FOR THE OPPRESS'D OF ALL NATIONS (possibly unique)

Edge 59b: Milled

Edge 59c: Plain

Bell indicates the diesinker and manufacturer are unknown. Breen credits the dies to Hancock and the maker as Obadiah Westwood based on the quality of engraving and tiny lettering.

Generally known in America as the "Kentucky Cent" it has no relationship to Kentucky. The only casual connection is that the letter at the top of the pyramid is 'K' representing our 15th state. Breen calls it the 'Starry Pyramid Halfpence.'

Middlesex, Washington (Large Eagle) [D&H 1049, Baker 15] Struck by [John or] Obadiah Westwood.

Obv: WASHINGTON PRESIDENT / (military bust left) / 1791

Rev: ONE CENT / (eagle with banner UNUM E PLURIBUS)

Edge: UNITED STATES OF AMERICA . X .

With the denomination "ONE CENT," this was intended for circulation in America. Produced by Obadiah Westwood for W. and Alex. Walker of Birmingham as samples to solicit a federal contract. Walker shipped an estimated one cwt to Thomas Ketland & Sons in Philadelphia for distribution to government officials and VIP's. Breen estimates that about 2500 of these were the large eagle type.

Washington objected to his portrayal on our coinage and opposed contract coinage. The legislation (Act of April 2, 1792) was changed to require a personification of Liberty instead.

#### Middlesex, Washington (Small Eagle) [D&H 1050, Baker 16]

Obv: WASHINGTON PRESIDENT / (bust left)

Rev: ONE CENT / 1791 / (eagle with stars and clouds)

Edge 1050: UNITED STATES OF AMERICA . X .

Edge 1050a: PAYABLE AT THE WAREHOUSE OF THOS WORSWICK & SONS . X . (rare)

Bell does not list a diesinker. Breen includes it with Hancock's patterns for U.S. coinage. He estimates about 1500 were produced. Some of the best examples of the Washington trial pieces came from Hancock's widow and were offered with the sale of the Dr. Charles Clay collection, conducted by Leavitt & Co., in 1871.

#### Middlesex, Washington [D&H 1051, Baker 18] Struck by Obadiah Westwood

Obv: Same as D&H 1050

Rev: HALFPENNY / (sailing ship) / 1793

Edge: PAYABLE IN ANGLESEY LONDON OR LIVERPOOLE . X .

Breen includes these with speculative patterns for a proposed contract coinage. With the Halfpenny reverse, this makes no sense. A better explanation is that they were included with a shipment of coppers for circulation in America.

#### Hancock Patterns [Baker 20]

Obv: WASHINGTON PRESIDENT / (bust left) / 1792

Rev: (large eagle)

Produced in copper, silver and gold as patterns for coins of various denominations. All are rare.

#### American Armies Cent [Baker 22, 60]

Obv: GEO. WASHINGTON BORN VIRGINIA FEB. 11, 1732 / (military bust left)

Rev: GENERAL / OF THE / AMERICAN ARMIES / 1775 / RESIGNED / 1783 / PRESIDENT / OF THE / UNITED STATES / 1789

Crosby called these medals but included them with other Washington patterns. Breen includes them with patterns for proposed coinage. He said, "they were not fancy enough to please British token collectors" and were shipped to America in a keg with mixed coppers.

#### Roman Head Cents of 1792 [Baker 19]

Obv: WASHINGTON PRESIDENT (head right)

Rev: CENT / (small eagle)

Edge: UNITED STATES OF AMERICA . X . X . X .  
Edge: PAYABLE AT MACCLESFIELD LIVERPOOL OR CONGLETON . X .

Crosby called this the "Naked bust." Breen refers to these as "Hancock's Revenge." Breen suggests that these were produced in spite after Hancock's patterns were rejected by the American Congress. Breen stated, "As Washington spokesmen had compared the idea of presidential portraits on coins to the practices of Nero, Caligula, and Cromwell, so Hancock's (and/or Westwood's) idea was to portray Washington on a coin as a degenerate, effeminate Roman emperor." Breen also stated that these were kept a secret for more than 40 years to avoid an international incident.

The existence of the pieces cannot be denied. Although struck during the same period and in the same size as Conder Tokens, they are not included in the series. The reason for their existence is open to interpretation and others have reached a conclusion differing from Breen.

In Vol. I, No. 3 of *The "Conder Token Newsletter*, Tom Fredette asks, "Can anyone tell me why the dust cover on the 1977 Quarterman reprint book of the Dalton & Hamer book is of the US "Roman Head" Cent?" Although there was an answer to the question, it did not explain why the cover illustration is of a piece not included in the series.

Next Issue: Part II: John Gregory Hancock, Junior

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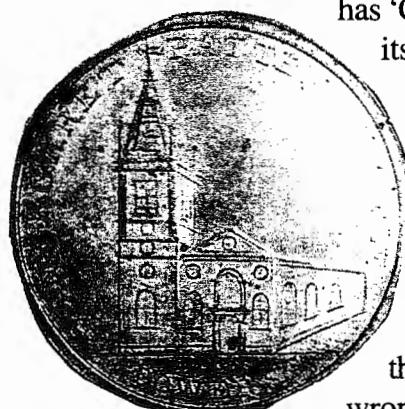
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## SKIDMORE CHURCHES IN THE CITY OF LONDON

### St Margaret Pattens

First mentioned in 1216, the latter part of the name comes about from the making of pattens, which were wooden soles to protect shoes from mud, which were made nearby. The church was rebuilt in 1530 and repaired in 1612-32: burnt down in the Great Fire, a new building was erected by Wren in 1699-1703. Its main distinguishing feature is its 200ft lead spire and gilded vane, which still dominate some city views especially from Aldgate and from St. Mary-at-Hill opposite. The tower and church are made of Portland stone, which contrast with the Georgian stucco house and shop front, which can be seen clearly in the forecourt by the south entrance.



Inside the church are some of the few remaining canopied pews in London. One of them has 'CW1686' carved on its roof. Beside the pulpit is an hour-glass for timing sermons and in the north transept is a beadle's pew and a punishment bench carved with the devil's head where wrongdoers were made to sit during the service.

In 1954 St Margaret Pattens became a Christian study centre, and is now the regular home of the Anglo Filipino Charismatic Episcopal Church.

## A British Token-Maker Trivia Quiz

By George Selgin  
Selgin@Terry.uga.edu

Here's a chance for Conder Club members to test their knowledge concerning persons involved in engraving and striking 18th and 19th-century British tokens. Each statement below supplies information concerning a diesinker or commercial coin maker whose name appears among those listed on p. 318 of R.C. Bell's *Commercial Coins, 1787-1804* (Corbitt & Hunter Ltd., 1963). See if you can identify the person referred to, and send your answers to me at the above e-mail address. The winner—that is, the person to come up with the greatest number of correct answers prior to September 15th 2003—will be announced in the Fall 2003 issue of the *Journal*, and will consequently command the lasting respect and praise of fellow token collectors everywhere![Just in case that doesn't inspire you enough, the CTCC folks have also decided to award the winner a prize Conder token with a retail value of \$100.]

1. This engraver's death, noted alongside delayed news of Nelson's great naval victory, was according to *Aris's Gazette* "sincerely lamented by all the friends and patrons of genius."
2. Speaking of naval battles, the copper bolts made using this token maker's special rolling and hardening process kept Nelson's copper-clad fleet from falling apart at the seams.
3. The son of this token maker, who continued his deceased uncle's token making business, was born in Sheffield the same year in which the person referred to in question 1 died, and went on to become one of the Victorian era's most celebrated entomologists.
4. This token and medal maker became the first man in Birmingham to be knighted.
5. Although Bell lists him as a token maker, it seems that this person was in fact an engraver only, whose dies were purchased after his death by a major token maker whose shop was located on Birmingham's Temple Street.
6. The father of the manager of this person's Birmingham token-making operation was an inventor whose contributions included the compound-lever weighing machine as well as the world's first mechanical cotton-spinning machine.
7. This person, who struck a very important pattern token just before taking a job as an engraver at another mint, was dismissed from his post after it was discovered that he'd been supplying dies for the counterfeiting of Louis d'ors.

8. This former token engraver went to work for the Royal Mint in the same year in which his son, who predeceased him, became its Chief Engraver.
9. The daughter of this small-scale token maker, who had an office on Livery Street and ran a rolling mill on the River Rea, married James Watt's assistant, John Southern.
10. In his diary Birmingham button maker Julius Hardy described this major token maker, who was among the signatories of the "Birmingham Memorial" objecting to the export of high-tech mint machinery to Russia, as "a very rigid Establishment man."
11. This small-scale token maker was Matthew Boulton's brother-in-law, who worked for Boulton & Fothergill before abruptly resigning in 1769, the year his father died.
12. Before becoming a coiner himself, this person participated in Great Britain's gold recoinage of the early 1770s by receiving old gold coins and giving out new ones.
13. Thomas Williams, Thomas Jefferson, and Matthew Boulton all made proposals to this talented engraver, though only one ended up actually hiring him.
14. This token maker, whose business was located on a street that started out as a path leading through a cherry orchard, made plated buckles before becoming briefly involved in the token craze, and turned to making picture frames, cloak pins, military ornaments, and commodes afterwards.

Happy hunting!

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(George Selgin, a Professor of Economics at the University of Georgia's Terry College of Business, is writing a history of the 18th and 19th-century commercial coinage episode, tentatively titled "Good Money: How Some Birmingham Button makers Beat Gresham's Law (and Saved the Industrial Revolution)," some excerpts from which have appeared in previous issues of the *CTCJ*. He welcomes hearing from anyone who'd like to share some of their token trivia or other information with him.)

## Ten Favorite Halfpennies (in the late 18th century series)

Tom Fredette

Weren't we always told by our mothers never to pick favorites? That is a rule of life that is hard to follow when it comes to people - but not when it comes to tokens. We all have them. And a number of years ago (see: "My Favorite Farthings and Half-Halfpence in the Late Eighteenth Century Series" - Issue # 8) I wrote about the small tokens that I am partial to. This partiality has to do with the fact that, for their size, they many times capture a lot in their designs.

But since the majority of this token series is made up of half-penny size issues, it only follows that there has to be a favorite or two in this category. And there are for this writer. And for a different reason than for those tokens of the farthing size. For me that reason is best expressed by a question: What is my first, most lingering impression of the token when I first see it? In "the flesh" I mean. Not as a photo in a catalog or book. Farthings have a charm of their own. Halfpennies (and pennies too) have a boldness. What follows is an informal summary of my impressions of ten of my favorite halfpennies.



Cambridgeshire - 12. Bees and a bee hive are symbolic of industriousness and accomplishment. This image is also found on a few U.S. Civil War storecards which might have been influenced by the Cambridge piece. I felt at home with this "conder" when I first saw it.

MILWAUKEE

510I-1a D. J. DOORNINK/BEEHIVE



Gloucestershire - 22. This beggar is receiving a very generous donation of alms, if the coins depicted are "worthy" coppers and not imitations. Hopefully, they are good ones. A very descriptive token.



Sussex - 17B. Queen Elizabeth I artistically depicted in a most radiant manner sometimes referred to as a "gloriana style." Besides glory, this style attempted to convey the respect her subjects had for "Good Queen Bess" who, among other interests sponsored the Bard and was a patron of the arts.



Middlesex 257c. The friar reminds me of Friar Laurence, the character from Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*. It has an association with Elizabethan theatre and drama as well as Queen Elizabeth. The detail is simple, accurate and clear.



Middlesex 363. (the mailcoach) I've written about this token previously. If the intent of the die sinker was to convey forward movement and commotion, the intent was accomplished. One feels like a bystander, hearing the crack of the whip and the burning sting of the dust.

Middlesex 391 (Newgate). I've written about this halfpenny token also. The piece I own has darkened some but has retained enough luster to convey the impression of the prison being on fire - or is that just the effect of the sun? The detail is meticulous.



Middlesex 903. The view is of St. Paul's. The edifice has been written about a great deal in fact and fiction. This building and its legends have stood the test of time. The designer of this token manages to convey the strength it takes to be able to withstand these tests. But look what he had to work with!

Middlesex 1037 (anti-slavery). "Am I not a man and a brother?" This plea has its counterpart on a U.S. Hard Times token. "Am I not a woman and a sister?" is a good example of how U.S. tokens were frequently influenced by their British predecessors.



Low #  
54





Yorkshire 63. Unequivocally, my all-time favorite half penny size token. While it is possible to determine what is occurring at Clifford's Tower without magnification, a glass really brings this scene to life. See it for yourself.

Kirkcudbrightshire 1. A picture-postcard view of a building once again rendered in exquisite detail by the artist. The token of Scott and Co. (where the token is payable) is shown with smoke emerging from the chimneys. The possessor of this piece might as well be standing across the street from the building it seems so realistic. It is also reminiscent of an early 19th century type of token design and fits my definition of boldness very well.



The previous descriptions are not complete and are not intended to be. Sometimes it is possible to "fall in love" with just one side of a token. We all acquire our tokens for different reasons. But how many of us have taken the time to think about why we desire a certain piece over another. What causes us to discriminate? The purpose of this short article was an attempt to capture that idea or feeling. Why don't you try to do it too?

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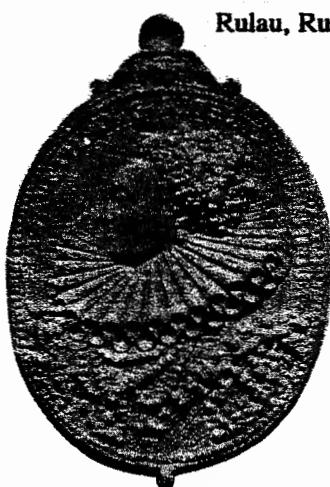
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2 Medals  
in the  
"Gloriana" style:



Fearon # 31.4



Fearon # 32.1

## MEMBER POLL

### What is a "Conder" Token???

The reference book, The Provincial Token-Coinage of the Eighteenth Century, by R. Dalton & S.H. Hamer lists trade tokens, mostly copper, issued in England, Wales, Scotland, and Ireland. Most of the tokens are dated between 1780 & 1799. There are, however, some tokens listed dating before 1780 (1716, 1731, 1760, 1763, 1767, & 1771). There are also some tokens listed dating after 1799 (1800, 1801, 1802, 1804, 1806, 1808, 1812, 1813, 1814, 1815, 1816, 1817, & 1819).

The reference book, British Copper Tokens 1811-1820 including those of Ireland, the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands, by Paul & Bente Withers, includes copper tokens issued in England, Wales, Scotland, Ireland, the Isle of Man and the Channel Islands, dated 1811-17 in the case of the mainland and 1800-34 for Ireland and the Isle of Man.

I have collected British Trade Tokens of the 18th & 19th centuries, both copper and silver, for over 20 years. I have always considered late 18th Century tokens, or better still, those tokens listed in the Dalton & Hamer reference book, as "Conder" tokens. I must have picked up the term "Conder" from other collectors when I first became interested. Since then, I see the label "Conder" applied also to early 19th Century tokens, such as those listed in the Withers reference book.

My point is this - just what is the definition of a "Conder" token? Are "Conder" tokens defined within a time period, geographic area, metallic content, or anything else?

Wayne Hood  
CTCC #35

Hi Wayne,

It's an excellent question. I tend to think of those pieces listed in D&H, but I don't really consider the leaden pieces listed in the Dublin section as "Conders" nor the various blobs depicted in the Lothian section. I think the generally accepted beginning is 1787 with the striking of the first Anglesey Druids and though the series pretty much ended as a functioning money substitute with the introduction of Boulton's 'cartwheel' pence and two pence, a few pieces (mostly private tokens) straggled into the 19th century. They clearly belong with the 18th century series and not the early 19th century series which arose between the years 1811 and 1820 as a result of a renewed need for a monetary substitute.

In addition to falling into the correct date range, I feel that to qualify as a "Conder" the piece should be die struck (not just a platchet which has been punched) and should have been struck in copper or bronze. Off metal strikes (white medal, silver, gold, etc.) would count if the piece has a copper version.

These are only my thoughts and others may completely disagree. I will include your query in the next journal and see if any members have different definitions. Perhaps, a definitive definition doesn't exist and one should be put forth by a consensus of our members opinions.

Best regards,  
Harold

Gentlemen,

The term "Conder token" has always seemed to be an artificial and imprecise categorization for the tokens we collect. As you have both pointed out, the time frame of their issue and their numismatic character overlap other well described series of tokens, coins and medals. It is nonetheless a convenient "handle" to use when talking or writing about the tokens. My somewhat simple view is that if it is listed in Dalton and Hamer it is thus a Conder token [Dalton Hamer token?]. It becomes difficult to divide the tokens in DH into Conder and non-Conder categories. The Building medalets, for example, are not tokens but medals....still sought by Conder collectors, including myself. The Dalton and Hamer book allows plenty of room for anyone to collect what interests them and remain in the realm of Conder tokens.

Michael Grogan

**MEMBERS, PLEASE LET US HAVE YOUR COMMENTS!**





### THE BIRMINGHAM POET'S CORNER

John Freeth [1731-1808] was a Birmingham innkeeper famous for his clay pipe and quick wit. He entertained his guests at Freeth's Coffee House with songs featuring liberal political lyrics set to popular tunes of the day. The Conder token he issued [Warwickshire 30] shows us his profile and his self-proclaimed title "The Birmingham Poet". His establishment was frequented by prominent citizens and clubs such as The Jacobin Club with member James Bisset and an early version of The Birmingham Book Club. This epitaph, supposedly written by Freeth himself, is on his tombstone and describes someone I would like to know:

Free and easy through Life was his wish to proceed  
Good men he revered be whatever their creed  
His pride was a sociable evening to spend  
For no man loved better his Pipe and his Friend

This occasional corner in the Journal will present some of Freeth's lyrics.

#### MORE GUINEAS, AND LESS PAPER CREDIT" [1798] Tune-Mrs. Casey

Through serious doubts and sad distrust Have many minds been troubled  
The merchants feel a sore disgust And Tradesmen's fears are doubled  
However fam'd, however great The Bank of England's power  
For trade no current cash can beat What's issued from the Tower

#### CHORUS

Then let good Guineas more abound, The Land at large has said it  
And true it is the Kingdom round -There's too much paper credit

Since Germany has drain'd the Land Of Guineas so much wanted  
The Traveller from hand to hand Finds various notes presented  
He looks at that, he looks at this, Perhaps not one in ten, Sir,  
Will suit him-then the language is, "I beg you 'd call again Sir"

Chorus: Then let good Guineas...

Bank Bills 'twill be confessed by all, Are useful, light, and pretty  
But Counterfeits whe're they fall, The consequence is weighty  
Since paper has so much havoc made, From so much overflowing  
Sure Government, for sake of Trade, Will set the Mint a-going

Chorus: Then let good Guineas...

New pictures of his Majesty, So beautifully shine-o  
There's nothing captivates the eye, Like full weight ready rhino  
The silver coin is mostly base, [Each Knaves the public fleeces]  
Of Copper little good we trace, Save Boulton's penny pieces

Chorus: Then let good Guineas...

Old sages who but little drink, And are at all times heedful  
Will tell you he who holds the chink, Enjoys the one thing needful  
From what the best of laws decree, However some have wandered  
That pure and solid coin give me, The true old Tower standard

Chorus: Then let good Guineas...

Till now was Abraham Newland's name Throughout the Land respected  
And long had London's City Dame With strictest prudence acted  
But when the amorous Minister The good old Lady ravished  
To keep alive the German war, Uncommon sums were lavished

#### FINAL CHORUS

And thus the wheel of Life goes round, As year on year advances  
And trade by all,'tis clearly found, Too much a game of chance is

#### References:

JOHN FREETH by John Horden.

TRADESMEN'S TICKETS AND PRIVATE TOKENS by R.C. Bell

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**OUR RULES:** CTCC members, in good standing, are cordially invited to dispatch their articles and advertisements to the CTCC editor for publication in the JOURNAL. Articles are always needed and appreciated. Articles do not have to be camera ready, but I appreciate it when they are. Articles are always published free of charge for the benefit of the membership. Advertisements are needed and appreciated just as much. Ads up to twelve lines are **FREE!** Full-page ads are \$75.00; one half-page ads are \$37.50. Ads larger than the free twelve lines **must be camera ready.** All paid ads **must be paid for when submitted;** thus, eliminating the possibility of confusion and the need for costly, unnecessary, and time-consuming billings and follow up. Ads submitted without full payment will not be accepted or published. Ads or articles may be either accepted or rejected at the discretion of the editor. Only members can participate in the journal or other Club activities. The Club rules are designed to be simple and few, please comply with them. The **deadline** for the Fall, 2003 issue is Sept 1, 2003. Journals are issued quarterly. Your articles and ads must be sent to the editor and publisher: Harold Welch, 655 Parkwood Circle, St. Paul, MN 55127, e-mail: [tokenmann@aol.com](mailto:tokenmann@aol.com) The only requirement for membership is the payment of an annual membership fee. You will be billed again after you have received four issues of the journal. The "Conder" Token Collector's Club reserves the right to accept or reject (without explanation) any application for membership. The "Conder" Token Collector's Club, reserves the right to revise these rules at any time in accordance with our by-laws. **ANNUAL DUES: \$25.00 US - \$30 or £20 outside the United States.**

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To let me know about your classic token literature. Several members have answered my appeals for information about their Pre WWII token books. Thanks to those kind folks. However, if my book in progress, *The Virtuoso's Arrangement*, is to be anywhere near complete, I need more members to step forward to help. If you own any original books on British tokens of the 18th and 19th centuries, I really need to hear from you. Does your book have a past ownership inscription? Perhaps it has annotations or letters or other ephemera laid in. If it is a numbered edition, which copy is it? I will give you credit or keep you anonymous - whatever you prefer. Thanks for your help!

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 Norf 38. Norwich. 1792. Man in loom / Arms. GVF. \$17  
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 Notts 7. Nottingham. Donald & Co / Beehive. VF. \$18.  
 Shrops 10 (S). Coalbrook Dale. Bridge / Machine. AVF. \$12.  
 Shrops 25d. Shrewsbury. Arms / Woolpack. AVF. \$12.  
 S'folk 34. Ipswich. Sailing ship. AVF. \$12.  
 Warks 50. B'ham. A boy / Shield, hedgehogs. VF. \$16.  
 Warks 71a. Samuel Johnson / Three lions. EF, stained. \$18.  
 Warks 249 (R). Lady Godiva. AVF, evenly worn. \$30.

### IMPORTANT TOKEN REFERENCES

H. E. Manville. *Tokens of the Industrial Revolution. Foreign Silver Coins Countermarked for use in Great Britain, c. 1787-1828.* A special publication of the British Numismatic Society. IAPN 2002 Book of the Year. A handsome hardcover volume, 307 pages plus 55 plates, many photos also in text. \$75

Dalton & Hamer, *The Provincial Token Coinage of the 18<sup>th</sup> Century* 1910-1918. Updated, 1990, 1996. Fully illustrated in text, rarity guide, 600+ pages, index. (Limited number of copies remaining)  
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Withers, Paul and Bente. *British Copper Tokens, 1811-1820, The Tokens of England, Wales, Scotland and Ireland including the Channel Islands and the Isle of Man.* The standard reference for the main 19th century token series. \$135

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